



Connect with your Neighbors.....Change the World

2024 PA Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Andre D. Carroll Office Sought: **PA House Representative**

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature: Andre D, Carroll Date: 2/9/2024

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to info@phillynn.org

and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to

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I. BACKGROUND – PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? None
2. If you have previously held a government office(s), state:
 - a. the name(s) of the office(s) and dates served
 - b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved?
 - c. your main accomplishments
3. What about your background qualifies you to hold this office, including any civic activity that you may have been involved with over your adult life?

I have worked in both city and state government. I previously worked in the Philadelphia City Controller's Office & a Pennsylvania State Office. I have been the campaign manager to now Councilmember Nicolas O'rourke & Senior Adviser to Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?
1. End life without Parole
 2. Fully fund Public Education
 3. Work to raise the minimum wage
5. What is your strategy to win this race, including all relevant organizational, financial and grass-roots components?

As a former campaign manager I understand that State House races are won at the door with a multi-racial, multi generation coalition of grassroot supports. Our team has a realistic and strategic plan to knock 15,000 doors, gain 2,000+ petition signatures, leverage relationships with unions and elected officials and raise over \$150,000 by Election Day (April 23th, 2024) – \$52,000 of which has already been raised as of Feb 1, 2024.

II. INTRODUCTION

Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” you should feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer Statement of your position. If you believe you do not have enough information to answer a question, or have not formed an opinion, say so.

III. ISSUES

A. OVERALL

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

Criminal Justice, Education, Family Care – focus on seniors

Community violence and mass incarceration are issues core to my identity. My father has spent 95% of my life in state or county custody. This is an all too familiar statistic for young Black people in this city. That's why I am a volunteer with the Brothahood foundation, an organization that provides court support and mentorship to youth who are incarcerated facing adult charges. We have to be preemptive in engaging with young folks, but also successfully help them disconnect from the carceral machine. There are 4.6 million opportunity youth in this country, which means there are over 4 million young adults disconnected from school or employment. Coming from this background I know exactly what it means to work a full time job and take classes at night. That's why I'm committed to increasing access to education for folks just like me. I am honored that I had the privilege of connecting seniors with quality healthcare, when I worked for a healthcare organization. Our low income seniors feel the effects of the increased price of living more than any other group. As many of them have a fixed budget and their SSI checks don't increase as the cost of goods increases.

B. Education

1. How do you feel about the role of charter schools in Pennsylvania's educational mix? If dissatisfied, what changes in State law would you sponsor to fix the problem?

I support a moratorium on charter schools, its not the amount of schools that's the issue. It's the amount of resources and allocation of money across the state. The courts has ruled that the funding formula we have historically used is unconstitutional. I will advocate that all educational funding is put through the fair funding formula.

2. What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?

Population should determine the amount of funding, not white privilege!

3. Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

I do. This is one of the major ways poor and working class folks gain access to education and higher wages.

4. What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?.

I believe that they should be used as a performance evaluation, but I do not believe that funding should be tied to them.

C. Budget and Taxes

1. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part?

I support progressive taxation wholly

2. If legal, would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase State revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

Yes. I support Kendra Brook's plan to fix ways to make the wealthiest folks pay their fair share without hurting working class families.

3. What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

I support instituting combined reporting for the corporate net income tax

4. What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

We need to eliminate the Delaware loophole.

5. Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

Yes

6. Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?

I support a ban on all new fracking projects and once there is a green jobs transition, all fracking projects.

7. Would you support abolition or reduction of the property tax for all or some payers? If so, which ones, and how would you replace the revenue?

No.

D. Public Banking

1. Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota?

Yes, I support public banking efforts across 100%, and believe in the viability of public control of funds for major projects. Public banking could help open up loan access, financial literacy and other major economic access historically inaccessible to so many people.

E. Women's Rights

1. Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what? Is any new legislation needed in light of the Dobbs decision to overrule Roe v. Wade?

No, I do not support any measure to restrict a woman's right to choose.

2. What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?

I would like to support healthcare which would increase access to reproductive healthcare. Which could include, birth control, sex education and abortion access.

3. Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?

Absolutely, in a just and equitable society there would be no wage gap, regardless of gender expression, race, sexual orientation or religious belief.

4. Do you support new legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?

Absolutely.

F. Children and Families

1. Should the State require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Yes, I believe that businesses should provide paid family leave. All too often folks have to choose between their families and their employment.

2. Should the State provide universal availability of affordable child care?

Yes, I believe the state should provide universal affordable

childcare. On the low end, raising a child can cost an additional 13,000 dollars a year. This doesn't factor in emergencies and unforeseen expenses. Universal child care would help mitigate some of the costs that come with raising children.

G. Environment

1. What measures, if any, would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

Pennsylvania operates one of the largest waste incinerators in the country, which is housed in Chester, a predominantly Black city. Residents of Chester have been calling for the site to be shut down, and I stand in support of these demands. Clean air, and water are human rights and are being unconstitutionally violated by this waste treatment facility. The (PES) refinery explosion which happened a few years ago really highlighted the danger and unsustainability of oil and gas as our energy sources. As an elected I will push for legislation that focuses on sustainable sources of energy, like solar and wind energy. I'm also really invested in sustainable public transit, and support the modernization of trolleys, trains and buses across the commonwealth.

2. Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?

I support a ban on all new fracking projects. Once there is a green jobs transition and guarantee for communities that are currently facing or would face job shortages, I would support ending all fracking projects.

3. Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub?

I need additional information as to what would make us an energy hub. What are those entities that we would house to make us an energy hub? I support all things that make Philadelphia a cleaner & greener city. I support things that attract folks to move here and increase our local economy. We should be responsible with the ways the we are considering making Philadelphia an energy hub.

4. Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

No, PGW is the largest municipally owned gas utility in this country, and should stay that way.

H. Criminal Justice

1. Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Outlawed in its entirety! There is no constitutional verison of stop and frisk.

2. How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?

I am currently a member of the Brothahood foundation, an organization that supports juveniles facing adult charges. What this looks like is mentorship, court support and advocacy. My father has spent 90% of my life in prison, from the time I was 9 months old. Poverty is uncontested in it's hold on the lives of people, and most crime is committed out of desperation. I will fight to increase a living wage, and I will fight to make sure that families stay together.

3. Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use? Yes, marijuana should be legalized, and all people incarcerated on marijauna charges should be released from prison.

4. Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No, private prisons are notorious for harmful conditions and human rights violations. There should be no private prisons in operation anywhere

5. Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes! It's inhumane, cruel and unusual.

6. Should PA continue to build new prisons?

Absolutely Not! They are draconian structures of torture and one of the core pieces of modern day slavery.

7. Should PA begin to close prisons?

As stated earlier, prisons are draconian and only lead to greater suffering. If we are clear that they aren't designed for rehabilitation, but for harm and degradation, we must be clear that something new must take shape.

8. Do you support an end to the death penalty?

Yes, this also means ending death by incarceration, I do not believe in life or virtual life sentences.

9. When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

Yes, this also means ending death by incarceration, I do not believe in life or virtual life sentences.

I. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for State and local election campaigns?

Small donor public financing seems like it could help offset some of the inequality that exists, which favors the wealthy few.

J. Labor

1. Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes absolutely. As a person raised by a single grandmother who was a union LPN, I will do everything in my power to strengthen workers protections. What we saw in Bessemer, Alabama was a gross violation of workers rights by Amazon. Amazon's tactics included undermining, intimidating and coercing workers to guarantee that they'd stay out of the union election. We can not allow this to happen anywhere else.

2. Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

The minimum wage has remained the same in PA since 2009 at a rate of \$7.25 an hour. I would say that \$15 an hour would be a good start, but the wage should be adjusted based on inflation.

3. Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?

Absolutely not, the cost of living is not exactly the same in different places across the commonwealth. This fact is true

nowhere more than Philly, given that this is the only city in the state with a population over a million, the second largest city doesn't even have half of our population.

4. Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?

The PLCB jobs are unionized and I would not support privatization of retail liquor stores.

K. Transportation

Currently the State constitution mandates that revenue from the State gasoline tax be spent only on roads and bridges. Would you support an amendment to the Constitution allowing gas tax revenue to be spent on public transportation?

Yes. We need additional streams of revenue to fund public transportation. Our mass transit system uses these same roads and bridges.

L. Reforming Legislative Districts

1. Do you support measures that would (a) form an independent commission, and (b) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

Yes. I support an independent commission that focusing on fair representation for pennsylvanians.

2. Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, or some other number?

My district holds 66K community members. If we decreased the number of districts, we would have to increase the population and

size of the district. a 25% in reduce of representatives would mean a 25% increase in population. This district holding 83k folks is something i would have to think about. If one state representative office with a very limited budget could service that many people.